

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2468

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9672

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: GVN PROGRESS IN QUANG TIN

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM DANANG DTD MAY 31, 1973,
REPEATED TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE C O O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 0605

1. LIAISON OFFICER QUANG TIN REPORTS THAT ARVN COMBAT UNITS AND ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN MAKING GRADUAL PROGRESS IN REESTABLISHING GOVERNMENT PRESENCE IN WESTERN TAM KY AND EASTERN TIEN PHUC DISTRICTS OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS.

2. THE LATEST STEPS BY ARVN IN THE RECOVERY OF LAST YEAR'S LOSSES IN THIS AREA HAS BEEN THE REOCCUPATION OF DESERTED PHUOC TAN VILLAGE, TIEN PHUOC DISTRICT, AND THE TAKING BY THE 1/5 ARVN BATTALION (SUPPORTED BY RANGERS AND RF) OF THE LAST UNRECOVERED OUTPOST (HILL 110, BT177179). HOWEVER, OVERALL PROGRESS IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF GVN AUTHORITY, WHICH HAS BEEN RELYING ON THE GVN'S 10 TO 1 SUPERIORITY IN FORCES, IS MEASURABLE ONLY IN " FRACTIONS OF HAMLETS" PER MONTH. AT THE PRESENT RATE, IT WOULD STILL REQUIRE ANOTHER YEAR AND A HALF TO PUSH THE VC COMPLETELY
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OUT OF THE COASTAL PLAIN IN CENTRAL QUANG TIN.

3. MEANWHILE, ARVN ENGINEERS HAVE NEARLY FINISHED REOPENING A 9 KM ROAD, WHICH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR OVER 8 YEARS, THROUGH PHUOC TAN. THIS WILL PROVIDE AN ALTERNATE GVN ROUTE FROM WESTERN TAM KY DISTRICT INTO TIEN PHUOC, SUPPLEMENTING A ROAD WHICH WAS INTERDICTED FOR FIVE DAYS SHORTLY AFTER THE CEASEFIRE. ALTHOUGH THEIR OVERALL RECORD IS STILL SPOTTY, PERFORMANCE BY THE ARVN ENGINEERS HAS BEEN GREATLY IMPROVED.

4. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THE RF WILL DO IN PROVIDING SECURITY IN THE PHUOC TAN AREA AFTER ARVN MOVES ON. THEY MUST NOT MERELY HOLD THE OUTPOSTS, BUT ALSO EFFECTIVELY PATROL THE INTERVENING AREAS. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT WILL BE REPOPULATION OF THE VILLAGE (POSSIBLY TWO TO THREE THOUSAND REFUGEES MIGHT RETURN) AND REESTABLISHMENT OF THE HAMLETS WITH PF AND PSDF PROTECTION.
THOMSEN UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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